

These 800,000 young men and women are not just court cases or statistics. Each of them has a spark of divinity in them. They are young men and young women who have obtained driver's licenses. They have work permits. They have pursued higher education. They are contributing their talents, their heart and soul, to this country.

Many say: Tell them to go home. They are home. This is the only country they know. This is the country that they love. They are serving in our military. In my congressional district, Silicon Valley, where all Members of Congress want to go and visit and see what innovation is happening, what innovation is bringing about, the majority of those geniuses who are producing this innovation are immigrants to our country.

I stand here as a first-generation American. And if the tenor of some in Congress—not all—but some in Congress—certainly the White House—were in charge when my parents were children, that boat would have had to have made a U-turn. They would not have been welcome in America because they weren't from Norway. They were from the Middle East. Yet, today, their daughter stands here on the floor of the House to address the House and the people of our Nation.

Our Nation, from its beginnings, was built by immigrants. I stand here today to say I love immigrants. They are the backbone of each generation and really the blood that flows through the veins of America. If you put a clamp on that vein, you stop the heart of America from beating.

Shortly after President Trump terminated the DACA program, Pope Francis said: "To all people"—of the United States—"I ask: take care of the migrant who is a promise of life for the future."

Please follow his words, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, and we will be a better nation because of it.

REBECCA'S STORY OF SLAVERY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Rebecca grew up in a small town in southern Oregon. She was on the honor roll, and she played varsity sports. She graduated high school early and immediately enrolled in Oregon State University. However, when her daughter was born, she had to withdraw to find a job.

Like many single moms, Rebecca struggled to make ends meet. But when she met a man she described as "Prince Charming," she thought things were finally turning around for her. He was kind, and caring, and offered to take care of her and her baby daughter. With expensive gifts and trips, he treated her to a lifestyle that she had never dreamed of. So when he asked her and her daughter to move in with him, Rebecca thought she had hit the

jackpot. But her dream quickly became another nightmare.

When she arrived in Las Vegas at his home, she found several other women and children already living there. This man then told her that now she would be forced to have sex with men for money. When she refused, he beat her up, hitting her over and over again.

Fearing for her life and the life of her child, Rebecca complied. So for the next 6 years, Rebecca was forced to have sex with countless strangers many times a day. Any time she stepped out of line, he beat her up. She had her face broken in five different places. Her trafficker even went so far as to tattoo his name on her back. Yes, branded her like cattle. She was nothing but a piece of property to him.

After her fourth attempt to escape, her trafficker told her that he would start selling her young daughter for sex if she didn't comply and submit. Feeling utterly hopeless, Rebecca tried to commit suicide two times. She thought that ending her life was preferable to living in the hell that she had to endure every day.

Finally, Federal agents raided her home and captured the trafficker. But, Mr. Speaker, he eventually took a plea deal and only served 1 year in prison for slavery. Meanwhile, Rebecca was left to deal with a lifetime of pain and trauma. As a former judge, Mr. Speaker, I believe the sentence was too light for a slave trader. No human being should ever have to endure what Rebecca and other trafficking victims like her have gone through.

Despite the system failing to provide justice against her trafficker, Rebecca has found a way to turn her darkness into light. Since becoming a survivor, she started the Rebecca Bender Initiative. This program provides training for those who have the opportunity to be intercepted and intervene with victims who are often being trafficked.

In this Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I want to commend Rebecca on her resilience and focus on providing support and compassion to the victims of trafficking. As co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, along with my friend JIM COSTA from California, we are dedicated to ensuring that victims and survivors know that we as a nation will stand with them.

Traffickers, buyers, and sellers must be prosecuted and sent to the jailhouse. And with the help of local, State, and Federal law enforcement, we are going to stop the sale of our children and our adult women on the marketplace of sex slavery.

Mr. Speaker, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, but it is still taking place, and it is time that we defeat this scourge on our community. Justice demands this, and justice is what we do.

And that is just the way it is.

FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IS NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about our need to invest in America, to invest in our future. Sound infrastructure is literally and figuratively the foundation of our Nation's economy. But, for quite some time, we in Washington have not provided the critical funding for our infrastructure projects that our communities around the country need.

We must stop living off the investments that our parents and grandparents made generations ago and, instead, start intelligently investing in our infrastructure again. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that, to update our infrastructure system, we need to make an investment of over \$1 trillion. And, of course, the President has talked about such a bipartisan package.

One key to intelligent investment is the Federal Government matching infrastructure funds for State and local governments. This is needed, and it has been historic to, in fact, make these projects a reality.

As we see from our history, infrastructure projects in this country move forward most effectively when we have a combination of local, State, and Federal dollars to invest. Across the country, State and local governments are raising funds to repair and improve infrastructure, often making tough political choices for raising taxes or making difficult decisions when required to do so.

This is happening both in red and blue States alike. In all three of the counties in my district, Merced, Madera, and Fresno Counties, they have voted to increase their local sales tax by a half cent in order to pay for essential transportation projects, including road repairs and construction of new road systems and highways.

Last year, the California State Legislature and the Governor enacted a bill to increase the State gas tax and vehicle fees to pay for bridges, roads, and other transportation improvement projects over the next 10 years.

Currently, these are tough decisions, tough political decisions, but the policy implications, notwithstanding the political risks, are worth it. Our State and local leaders in California have taken these risks. It is the right thing to do. It takes dollars to fill potholes. That is the bottom line. To repair bridges and improve road systems, it takes dollars. It is not magic.

And now the Federal Government needs to step up and face the challenge head on. We need to be responsible in our Nation's Capital. I have been working hard for years to improve the infrastructure in California's San Joaquin Valley, both in the statehouse and now here in Congress, and we have made